

He also represented student protesters at Southern University during the civil rights movement and countless indigent defendants, and he challenged voter discrimination practices throughout the South.

I was grateful to have the opportunity to speak with Dr. Attorney Johnnie Jones on Veterans Day to thank him for his incredible service to our people in America.

On his birthday, he celebrated with friends, family, and good Louisiana seafood. Today, let's all thank Dr. Jones for his great advice that he shares with us, which is: "You have to deal with the past, and you have to deal with the history. You have to read and understand so we don't repeat the past."

Let's build better. Let's build a future for everyone.

Please join me in wishing Dr. Attorney Johnnie Jones, Sr., a happy 102nd birthday.

#### BORDER CROSSINGS FUEL OTHER CRISES

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from New York (Ms. MALLIOTAKIS) for 5 minutes.

Ms. MALLIOTAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise to discuss an issue that is an unprecedented issue, the border crisis that we are facing in this Nation that is fueling other crises: national security, public safety, health, and fentanyl, all a burden on the hard-working taxpayers and the American people.

On October 3, following court orders, the Biden administration said that it would reinstate the remain in Mexico policy by mid-November. I rise today to point out that we are now in December, and no such action has been taken.

Since President Biden has taken office, CBP has encountered more illegal immigrants than in 2018, 2019, and 2020 combined. In October, 164,303 illegal immigrants crossed the border, the highest number in recorded history and 80 percent higher than the previous record for the month of October, which is from October 1999.

Mr. Speaker, 1.7 million people have crossed the border in the past year, which is roughly the same as the population of President Biden's home State of Delaware and Vice President HARRIS' home city of San Francisco combined.

These border crossings are creating many issues throughout our country. First, let's talk about safety and security.

In the first month of this fiscal year, October, CBP arrested over 680 individuals with criminal convictions and dozens of known gang members, including 23 members of MS-13. That is in just 1 month. Multiple individuals on the FBI terrorist watch list have also been encountered over the last year.

As a native New Yorker who was just blocks away from Ground Zero on 9/11,

I can tell you that I was shaken to my core by reports that Panama was in the position of having to deny over 52 al-Qaida affiliates at their border who were coming to the United States.

Last month, a 24-year-old man, who posed as an unaccompanied minor while illegally crossing our border, entered this country and then murdered his foster parents in their Florida home.

When is enough going to be enough for this administration and for my colleagues in the House?

Let's talk about fentanyl. Every Member of this Chamber knows the widespread pain plaguing our communities. We all have constituents who are suffering from the loss of life caused by an abundance of drugs being smuggled into our country. Counterfeit narcotics laced with fentanyl are being mass-produced in Mexico with chemicals from China and are streaming over our open borders. The DEA is telling us so. They say that 80 percent of fentanyl in the United States has come over our borders, smuggled by the cartels.

In the first month of this fiscal year, 2022, October, CBP seized over 1,000 pounds of fentanyl. That means that in just 1 month, CBP seized enough fentanyl to kill 236,775,024 people, American citizens. The U.S. recently recorded its highest number of drug overdose deaths in a 12-month period, surpassing 100,000 for the first time.

Over 170 people overdosed on drugs during the first 9 months of 2021 in my community of Staten Island, and I know other Members have similar stories, too. Fentanyl was present in about 80 percent of the completed toxicology reports for the 2020 fatal overdoses in Staten Island.

So I ask my colleagues, whose side are you on? Are you on the side of the drug cartels, or are you on the side of the American people?

I visited the border. I met with the CBP agents. I rode with the Texas Department of Public Safety. I can't say the same for our President, can't say the same for our Vice President, can't say the same for the Speaker.

Despite all this, the Biden administration has halted the construction of barriers while American taxpayers still foot the bill for a contract that has been in place. We are paying every month, yet the barriers aren't going up.

Instead, they want to further incentivize illegal border crossings by giving illegal immigrants \$450,000 of taxpayer money, a total slap in the face to the taxpayers who bust their butts and pay taxes and expect this government to perform properly.

The Biden administration now, in its misguided Build Back Better—or, I should say, build back broke—bill, wants to reward illegal immigration by granting mass amnesty, free college tuition, and childcare to those who unlawfully crossed.

As a daughter of immigrants, I think it is incredibly important that we en-

force our laws and give people opportunity, but let's make sure they are doing it the right way.

#### HONORING THE LIFE OF NAVY SEAMAN SECOND CLASS CHARLES LOUIS "SONNY BOY" SAUNDERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas (Mr. BABIN) for 5 minutes.

Mr. BABIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the life of Navy Seaman Second Class Charles Louis "Sonny Boy" Saunders of Winnie, Texas, in my district.

Seaman Saunders was serving aboard the USS *Oklahoma* on the morning of December 7, 1941. Tragically, the *Oklahoma* sustained 429 casualties during the attack on Pearl Harbor, claiming Mr. Saunders' life that morning. After eight decades, 80 years, the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency, or DPAA, has identified Seaman Saunders' remains.

This year, he will be reinterred in his hometown on the 80th anniversary of Pearl Harbor. Mr. Saunders was born to Mortimer Alvin and Melina Falke Saunders on October 16, 1923. He was the sixth child and one of four boys. His oldest brother, Adam, passed away at just 13 months old. He grew up with his sisters Lillie Mae, Mary Alice, Sadie Lee, and Anna Belle, along with brothers Sidney "Buddy" Edward and Mortimer Virgil.

The Great Depression led to difficult times as their father worked in construction and labored in the rice fields to provide for his family while his mother cared for the home and raised their children. Mr. Saunders' youngest sister, Anna Belle, always spoke of her brother's compassion and how he sacrificed so that she could have shoes for her daily walk to school.

His kind, caring, and playful nature fueled his ambition to serve our Nation. On November 23, 1940, 1 month after his 17th birthday, he joined the United States Navy. Not only did he possess a deep desire to serve our country, but he also had a great determination to make a better life for his parents and his siblings.

On December 7, 1941, Japanese aircraft launched a surprise attack on the American fleet of battleships that were moored at Pearl Harbor, thrusting the United States into the Second World War.

After Seaman Saunders' warship capsized because of the damage from the multiple Japanese torpedoes, his whereabouts were unknown. According to a casualty roster of the *Oklahoma* compiled 2 weeks after the attack, Seaman Saunders' status was labeled as "missing" but then later was amended to be "killed in action."

Those who perished aboard the USS *Oklahoma* were buried at two different cemeteries: the Halawa and Nu'uano Naval Cemeteries in Hawaii. Most of the remains were recovered during salvage operations but were unable to be